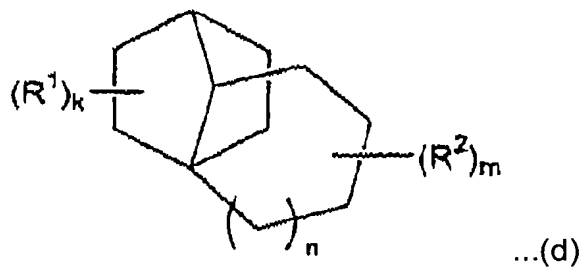
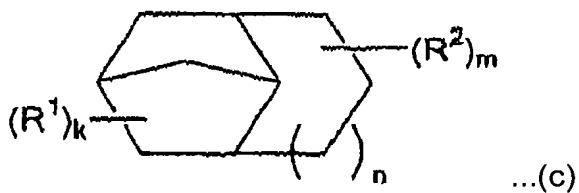
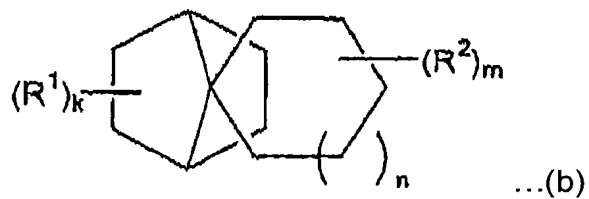
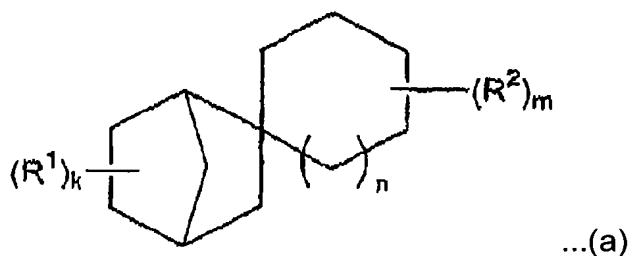


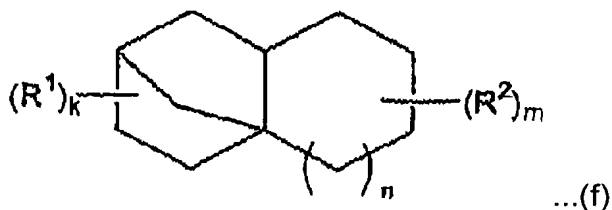
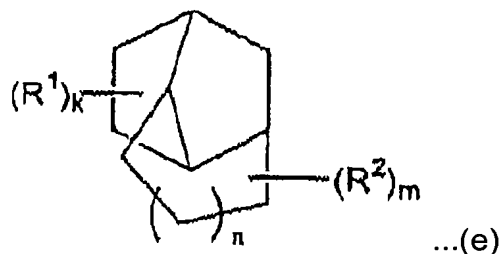
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising at least one hydrocarbon compound of any of formulas (a) to (f),

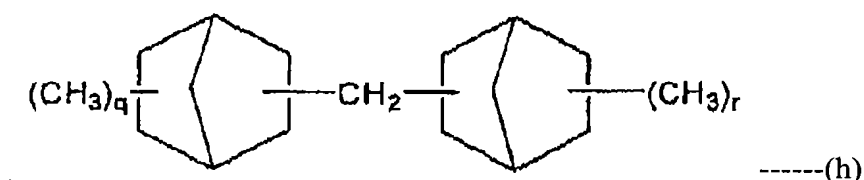




wherein in (a)-(f),  $k$ ,  $m$  and  $n$  are each an integer of 0 to 6 with the proviso that  $k+m$  is an integer of 0 to 6, and wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 12 carbon atoms;

and a synthetic traction base oil which is ~~other than said at least one hydrocarbon compound and which has an alicyclic structure~~ is selected from the group consisting of:

a hydrocarbon which has 16 to 20 carbon atoms and which is represented by the formula (h):



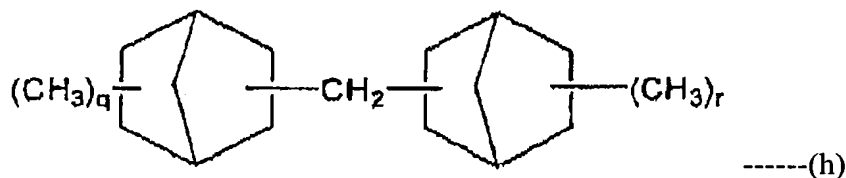
wherein  $q$  is an integer of 1 or 2 and  $r$  is an integer of 2 or 3,

2,4-dicyclohexyl-2-methylpentane, and

2,3-dicyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylbutane,

wherein the composition has a viscosity, at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$ , of 40 Pa·s or lower, and a viscosity index of 80 or higher.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is a hydrocarbon which has 16 to 20 carbon atoms and which is represented by the formula (h):



wherein q is an integer of 1 or 2 and r is an integer of 2 or 3.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,4-dicyclohexyl-2-methylpentane.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The composition as recited in claim 9, wherein the synthetic traction base oil having an alicyclic structure is 2,3-dicyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylbutane.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~lube base oil of claim 1~~ composition of claim 9, further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal deactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion proof agent, an antifoaming agent and an extreme pressure agent.

Claims 14-21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The composition ~~lube base oil~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein the composition ~~oil~~ has a viscosity, at -40°C, of 30 Pa·s or lower.

Claim 23 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (a).

Claim 24 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (b).

Claim 25 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (c).

Claim 26 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (d).

Claim 27 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (e).

Claim 28 (New): The composition as recited in claim 9, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (f).

Claim 29 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (a).

Claim 30 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (b).

Claim 31 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (c).

Claim 32 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (d).

Claim 33 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (e).

Claim 34 (New): The composition as recited in claim 10, comprising a hydrocarbon compound of formula (f).